



Passing the torch

Jonathan Comer takes over as head Caledonia boys basketball coach, **Page 1B**

THE STARKVILLE DISPATCH

CDISPATCH.COM

75¢ NEWSSTAND

TUESDAY | APRIL 4, 2023

Pair of teens nabbed for Saturday shooting

18-year-old victim shot outside Sprint Mart, remains at OCH

BY ABIGAIL SIPE ROCHESTER
arochester@cdispatch.com

Two teen suspects are in custody for a week-

end shooting outside the Sprint Mart at Highway 182 and Old Mayhew Road.

Both Jordan Young, 17, of Starkville, and Javion

Rice, 18, of Crawford, have been charged with aggravated assault, according to a Starkville Police Department press release. Police arrested them Monday.

Officers responded to the convenience store at about 10:56 p.m. on Saturday and found an 18-year-



Young Rice
old male victim had been

shot. The victim was taken to OCH Regional Medical Center and remained there in stable condition as of Monday morning, police said.

The suspects and victim all knew each other, SPD confirmed.

Young and Rice are in

Oktibbeha County Jail. Bond had not been set as of press time on Monday, SPD Public Information Officer Brandon Lovelady said.

The shooting remains under investigation, and more arrests are expected.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Boutique owner, ER nurse names store after her grandfathers



Jessica Lindsey/Dispatch Staff

Shelby Pritchett is an emergency room nurse, a business owner and a mother of three. She owns a men's fashion boutique, Allen Dales, named after her two grandfathers which she started online in 2021 and expanded to a brick-and-mortar storefront on Fifth Street South. She manages the "chaos" of her life with the help of her husband, Blake, family and friends.

'This is weird, but I guess it's meant to be'

BY JESSICA LINDSEY
jlindsey@cdispatch.com

If Shelby Pritchett's two grandfathers were still alive, she knows where they would likely be most days — sitting outside on Fifth Street South across from The Princess trying to get anyone who walked by to shop in their granddaughter's boutique.

That's why Pritchett named her store, Allen Dales, after her grandfathers.

"My two grandpas — one was named Joe Allen and the other was named Jimmy Dale — they were the two most hard working men you could ever find around," Pritchett said. "... I know they would've been so proud. They would've been up here working. I wouldn't have had to look for employees. I thought what better way to honor them than to name the store after them."

As a mother of three, a business owner and an emergency room nurse, Pritchett inherited the hard-

working ways of her grandfathers, and their spirit lives on in her. When she graduated from Mississippi University for Women in May 2016, she had a job at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle within a month.

She said she loves to help people, and as a nurse and men's fashion boutique owner, she can do that in different ways.

"Thankfully my boss at the ER is very understanding, and I get to work (at the store) on my off days," Pritchett said. "It's chaotic, to say

See PRITCHETT, 3A

\$1.5M contract approved for Northstar site work

Contractor has 40 days to clear trees before bat mating season begins

BY ABIGAIL SIPE ROCHESTER
arochester@cdispatch.com

The Oktibbeha County supervisors are finally gaining traction on clearing Northstar Industrial Park.



Trainer

During Monday's meeting, the board accepted a \$1.5 million bid from Hodges Rock Solid Land Services for clearing and grubbing, building an access road and mass grading for a second spec building pad on the 384-acre site off Highway 389. The contract length is 170 days.

Phylis Benson, project analyst for the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, emphasized the timeline of the project, due to the mating season of the northern long-eared bat. The bat, known for roosting in trees during its mating season from mid-May to September, is being moved to the endangered species list.

Benson said the last day that trees can be chopped down or removed from the site is May 14, only 40 days after Monday's meeting.

"If you'll remember, we're sort of under the gun with getting the trees cleared because of the maternity season of the bats," Benson said. "It's important that we move along as quickly as possible with getting the contractor out there ... By May 14, those trees have to be on the ground."

Benson said due to the tight See NORTHSTAR, 6A

'Gas station heroin' illegal in Lowndes County as of April 13

Ban sunsets July 1 as state law comes into effect

BY BRIAN JONES
bjones@cdispatch.com

LOWNDES COUNTY — The Lowndes County Board of Supervisors on Monday passed an ordinance banning tianeptine, commonly referred to as

"Za-Za," countywide.

Selling or possessing the drug carries a fine of \$1,000 and up to six months in jail.

The ordinance goes into effect April 13 and bans the sale and posses-

sion of the drug until July 1, when a state law making it a Schedule 3 controlled substance goes into effect. The 10-day delay struck a compromise between declaring an emergency for an immediate ban and

waiting the traditional 30 days for non-emergency ordinances to go into effect.

Supervisors held a public hearing on the ban, but the writing was on the wall from the beginning of the meeting.

"I think it's a foregone conclusion that the board

is planning on passing the ordinance,"

District 5 Supervisor Leroy Brooks said. "The legislature has already passed a law ... (A ban) is going to



Brooks

happen, but we wanted to follow through on the public hearing."

The supervisors heard brief remarks from citizen Glenn Lautzenhiser, who has been involved in getting both the city and county to pass bans, and family members of Chris- See ZA-ZA, 6A

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FIVE QUESTIONS

- 1 What artist, known for her aerobic aerial performances, teamed up with Nate Ruess of fun for the 2012 track "Just Give Me a Reason"?
- 2 Who won the closest-ever finish in Daytona 500 history in 2016?
- 3 Name one of the four "James Bond" films Daniel Craig starred in prior to "No Time To Die"?
- 4 What Australian author wrote "Big Little Lies", "The Husband's Secret", and "Nine Perfect Strangers"?
- 5 What legendary women's college basketball coach retired in 2012, with 1,098 wins and 8 NCAA championships?

Answers, **6B**

CALENDAR

Today

■ **Lyceum Series:** Boston Brass will perform at 7 p.m. at MSU's Bettersworth Auditorium in Lee Hall. Tickets: Visit union.msstate.edu and click on the Lyceum Series tab.
■ **Concert:** The W's Jazz Ensemble concert will be at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Tuesday, April 11

■ **Concert:** The W's Wind Ensemble concert will be at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, April 12

■ **Tales from the Crypt:**

MSMS will host the annual Tales from the Crypt program at 7 p.m. in Friendship Cemetery. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students K-university.

Thursday, April 13

■ **Community Engagement:** Apps & Cyber Crimes: Preventing Predators from Entering Your Back Door, featuring guest speaker, Lee McDivitt from the Mississippi Attorney General's office, will be at 4:30 p.m. at the Greensboro Center, 401 Greensboro St., Starkville. There will be food trucks and a community advocate expo as well.

LOCAL FOLKS



Katie Hardwick, of Columbus, enjoys crocheting, reading and hanging with friends.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Today: Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m., City Hall courtroom
April 11: Planning and Zoning Commission, 5:30 p.m., City Hall courtroom
April 11: Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District Board, 6 p.m., location TBD
April 17: Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors, TBD, 2nd floor City Hall

ESTABLISHED 1879



144TH YEAR, No. 16

Trump arrives in New York to face charges in criminal probe

Former president facing multiple charges of falsifying business records, including at least one felony offense

BY MICHAEL R. SISA, TERRY SPENCER AND WILL WEISSERT
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Donald Trump flew Monday from Florida to New York for his historic booking and arraignment on hush money charges, as the nation's largest city bolstered security and warned potential protesters it was "not a playground for your misplaced anger."

Trump's motorcade ride from his Mar-a-Lago club to his red, white and blue Boeing 757, emblazoned with his name in gold letters, was carried live on cable television. It took him past supporters waving banners and cheering, decrying the case against him — stemming from payments made during his 2016 campaign — as politically motivated.

Trump is already months into a third campaign to reclaim the White House he lost to President Joe Biden in 2020, and he and his advisers seemed to relish the attention. Cable networks followed his plane at airports in Florida and New York with video from the air, and

Trump to deliver remarks Tuesday night after arraignment

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Former President Donald Trump will deliver remarks Tuesday night in Florida after his scheduled arraignment in New York on charges related to hush money payments, his campaign announced Sunday.

Trump will hold the event at his Mar-a-Lago club after returning from Manhattan, where he is expected to voluntarily turn himself in. He is expected to be joined in Florida by supporters as he tries to project an image of strength and defiance and turn the charges into a political asset to boost his 2024 presidential campaign.

Trump is facing multiple charges of falsifying business records, including at least one felony offense, in the indictment handed up by a Manhattan grand jury last week, two people familiar with the matter have told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss information that is not yet public because the indictment remains under seal.

Trump was joined aboard by a small group of senior campaign aides as well as his son, Eric Trump, who eagerly posted photos of the wall-to-wall TV coverage from his seat.

The scene was quite different in New York, where Trump built a national profile in business and entertainment but became deeply unpopular as he moved into politics. Prosecutors say their case against him has nothing to do with politics and have defended the work of Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg who is leading it.

Trump is facing multiple charges of falsifying business records, including at least one felony offense, in the indictment handed down by a Manhattan grand jury last week.

The investigation is scrutinizing six-figure payments made to porn actor Stormy Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal.

Both say they had sexual encounters with the married Trump years before he got into politics. Trump denies having sexual liaisons with either woman and has denied any wrongdoing involving payments.

It's an unprecedented chapter in American history, with Trump the first former president to face criminal charges. But he's betting it could actually boost his chances at winning the presidency again next year. In the meantime, the case is causing major legal, political and cultural events to collide in unprecedented ways.

Hutchinson launches GOP 2024 bid, calls on Trump to drop out

BY ANDREW DEMILLO
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Asa Hutchinson, who recently completed two terms as Arkansas governor, said Sunday he will seek the Republican presidential nomination, positioning himself as an alternative to Donald Trump just days after the former president was indicted by a grand jury in New York.

Hutchinson said Trump should drop out of the race, arguing "the office is more important than any individual person."

Hutchinson, who announced his candidacy on ABC's "This Week," said

he was running because "I believe that I am the right time for America, the right candidate for our country and its future." He added: "I'm convinced that people want leaders that appeal to the best of America and not simply appeal to our worst instincts."

He is the first Republican to enter the race since Trump became the only former U.S. presi-

dent to ever face criminal charges. Hutchinson's candidacy will test the GOP's appetite for those who speak out against Trump. Others who have criticized Trump, including former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, have opted against a campaign, sensing the difficulty of prevailing in a primary.

Hutchinson, in an Associated Press interview later Sunday, said it was

important for voters to have an alternative leader and "not simply go by default to somebody who is really wrapped around what happened in the past."

"I don't think you have to be blustery. I think you can be honest and authentic, and that's what I want to be able to offer," he said.

Blinken: Russia must immediately free 2 detained Americans

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged his Russian counterpart, in a rare phone call between the diplomats since the Ukraine war, to immediately release a Wall Street Journal reporter who was detained last week as well as another imprisoned American, Paul Whelan, the State Department said Sunday.

In the call with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Blinken conveyed "grave concern" over the Kremlin's detention of journalist Evan Gershkovich on espionage allegations, according to a State Department summary of the call.

Blinken called for his immediate release. Blinken also sought the immediate release of Whelan, whom the statement said was wrongfully detained. U.S. officials said they were considering a similar determination for Gershkovich that could be made at any time. Should that happen, his case would be largely transferred to the office of the U.S. Special Presidential for Hostage Affairs.

Whelan, a Michigan corporate security executive, has been imprisoned in Russia since December 2018 on espionage charges that his family and the U.S. government have said are baseless.

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31st International Fiesta reveals food, cultural educations at MSU

50+ student, cultural groups share traditions, food to hundreds on Saturday

BY JESSICA LINDSEY
jlindsey@cdispatch.com

The spring sun shone down as flags from countries around the world whipped in the April wind. People ambled along the brick walkway, learning about different cultures and trying various cuisines.

While to many the scene sounds like it's set somewhere like New York City, it was actually the scene on the Mississippi State University Drill Field on Saturday for the 31st International Fiesta, which dates back to 1991.

More than 50 student and cultural groups set up booths and treated hundreds of festival-goers to food, cultural dances, music, games and other activities.

The Colombian booth featured arepas and lime desserts as two women who manned the booth were dressed as characters from "Encanto," an animated Disney film set in Colombia. There was a constant long line of customers at the Vietnamese Student Association booth to get boba tea,



Jessica Lindsey/Dispatch Staff

Mississippi State University Vice President for Access, Diversity and Inclusion Ra'Sheda Forbes welcomes people to the 31st International Festival on Saturday afternoon. The festival hosted many campus and community cultural organizations who shared their traditions and food with festival goers. Though food and souvenirs cost money, attendance and other activities were free.

and fresh fruits and cold horchata drew in a crowd at the Latino Student Association booth.

Micah Pierre-Louis, a freshman MSU student from Columbus with Haitian roots, is part of the Caribbean Student Association. She said the group was established in February, and this is her first International Fiesta.

"The food is my favorite part, but I do love learning about all of the different countries," Louis told The Dispatch.

"This is CSA's first International Fiesta, but we've definitely got a lot planned for the future. So far we had a jerk festival where we had jerk chicken, sides and other Caribbean food. We had a lot of people come out. ... Being from the area, I want people to be aware of the cultural diversity that's here."

To kick off the event, flags from represented nations were carried through the Drill Field and taken to the stage in

front of Carpenter Hall. The Trebull Dawgs performed the Star Spangled Banner, and festival goers were welcomed by Starkville Mayor Lynn Spruill and MSU Vice President for Access, Diversity and Inclusion Ra'Sheda Forbes.

There were 14 performances from dance to music throughout the day, and there were contests for best main food dishes, desserts and displays.

"Listening to the a cappella group, I think of



Jessica Lindsey/Dispatch Staff

Micah Pierre-Louis, a freshman Mississippi State University student from Columbus with Haitian roots, spins the wheel labeled with some Caribbean countries. She is a member of the Caribbean Student Association, which was just formed in February. CSA is one of the 55 cultural organizations that took part in the 31st International Fiesta on Saturday at the MSU Drill Field.

the different voices that come together to make the beautiful, beautiful sound we heard (from Trebull Dawgs), and you think about the different countries that come together to make us, the campus and Starkville, a great place to live, work, play and learn," Spruill said. "... It makes me so proud knowing how many international students are a part of our community."

Though the festival was completely free to attend, food and souvenirs from the various groups were available for purchase. There was something for everyone no matter their age or their taste palate — from bouncy houses and face

painting to corn hole and a pinata.

Andrew Nagel, a Starkville resident, came to the festival with his family to experience all of the nationalities and cultures that make up MSU and Starkville.

"It's such nice weather out, and it's great to see all of the people, cultures and nationalities that are out here," Nagel said. "I've been to International Fiesta several times, and I always love experiencing the different cultures and environments of people who are our neighbors. The kids always have a good time playing with everybody and seeing their friends outside of school and church."

Mississippi session: Yes to moms' Medicaid, no to tax cuts

Three-month session ended Saturday

BY EMILY WAGSTER
PETTUS

The Associated Press

JACKSON — During the three-month session that ended early Saturday, Mississippi lawmakers guaranteed a year of Medicaid coverage for women after birth but ignored broader Medicaid expansion for working people whose jobs don't provide health insurance.

The majority-white and Republican-controlled Legislature voted for a larger state police presence in the capital city of Jackson starting in July 2024, despite objections from Black lawmakers who called it a power grab over the majority-Black city governed by Demo-

crats. Supporters of Capitol Police expansion said they are trying to reduce crime in the city of nearly 150,000 residents, which had more than 100 homicides each of the past three years.

Here's a look other issues:

TAXES: Republican House Speaker Philip Gunn isn't seeking reelection this year, and one of his main goals was to phase out the state income tax. He said doing so would make Mississippi more competitive with fast-growing Texas and Florida, which don't tax income. Opponents of the tax elimination cautioned that Mississippi should not jeopardize its ability to pay for schools and

other services. Although legislators enacted a the state's largest-ever tax cut in 2022, Gunn's proposal died with little discussion this year.

ELECTIONS: Republican Gov. Tate Reeves signed a law setting tighter restrictions on absentee ballots. The law, starting July 1, sets a short list of people who can "collect and transmit" a ballot mailed to another person. That list includes employees of the U.S. Postal Service or other mail carriers, plus any "family member, household member or caregiver of the person to whom the ballot was mailed." Reeves said this will prevent fraud by political operatives. Opponents said the new restrictions could hurt nursing home

employees or others who make good-faith efforts to help people obtain and mail absentee ballots.

EDUCATION: Republican Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and other Senate leaders sought to revise and fully fund the Mississippi Adequate Education Program, a budget formula designed to give schools enough money to meet midlevel academic standards. MAEP was put into law in 1997 but has been fully funded only two years. House leaders rejected the Senate proposal. Legislators

voted to increase education spending by more than \$100 million during the year that begins July 1, but they still left MAEP short of full funding.

INITIATIVES: Legislators did not revive an initiative process to let people petition to put issues on statewide ballots. Mississippi allowed initiatives for about 30 years, but the state Supreme Court ruled in May 2021 that the process was invalid because it required people to gather signatures from five outdated congressional districts

rather than four districts the state has had since the early 2000s. The House voted this session to allow initiatives on many issues but not for proposing changes to abortion laws. That proposal died in the Senate, where Accountability, Efficiency and Transparency Committee Chairman John Polk said he liked the abortion restriction but wanted to significantly increase the number of signatures over what the previous initiative process required.

Pritchett

Continued from Page 1A

the least, but it's very rewarding. I still get to give to the community in a different way. With the store, I get to talk to people who choose to come in. In the ER, I get to help people in their most vulnerable state."

Pritchett and her husband Blake have three children — two girls, Charlie Kate, 5, Arlie Jane, 4, and one boy, Dax, 2. When Pritchett had her son she noticed a distinct lack of options for boys' clothing and decided to tackle that head on.

After making and selling her own candles since 2019, some nudging from her husband led Pritchett to start Allen

Dales in 2021, which has evolved from its online beginnings to a brick-and-mortar storefront.

She eventually landed the storefront she's now in at Stone's Throw, which has its own significance to her.

"What's ironic is that my grandpa's full name was Joe Allen Stone," Pritchett said. "We moved over here to the old Stone Hotel, and I had no idea it was called that until we moved in. I called my mom, Face-Timed her, and showed her and my family the name. Their jaws just dropped. They said, 'This is weird, but I guess it's meant to be.'" The Pritchetts live

in Hamilton, and their children attend school in Aberdeen. Working in Columbus, Shelby makes every effort to be involved in all three communities.

"The season of life we're in right now is so crazy, busy, chaotic, all the words, but without the help of Blake and family, I don't know if we could survive without them," Pritchett said. "... We try to help each community we're involved in. We try and spread the support where we can. Everywhere we are — Hamilton, Aberdeen, Columbus — we have such tight-knit friends and family, we couldn't make it without them."

WCBJ YOUR NEWS LEADER
WCBJ FIRST ALERT
SUMMARY: Multiple rounds of showers and thunderstorms are in the forecast this week. Tuesday will be mainly dry before the next system brings widespread storms to the area early Wednesday.

TUE NIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mild, Cloudy	Strong Storms	Storm Chance	Sct'd Storms	Sct'd Showers
LOW 68	HIGH 82 LOW 59	HIGH 66 LOW 52	HIGH 63 LOW 55	HIGH 66 LOW 52

ALMANAC DATA			FORECAST FOR SELECTED CITIES			TOMBIGBEE RIVER STAGES		
Sunday in Columbus			City			In feet as of 6 a.m. Mon		
Temperature	High	Low	Atlanta	Tue Hi/Lo	Wed Hi/Lo	Fulton	Flood Stage	24-hr. Chng.
Sunday	82	55	Boston	58/42	47/46	Bigbee	20 11.87	+0.60
Normal	75	50	Chicago	61/58	71/34	Armory	14 8.64	0.98
Record	90	32	Dallas	85/60	70/48	Columbus	161 138.66	+3.70
Precipitation (inches)	0.74"		Los Angeles	66/43	71/48	Bevill	122 111.83	+2.16
Sunday	0.74"		Nashville	85/69	84/50	LAKE LEVELS		
Month to date	0.47"		New York	67/51	57/56	In feet as of 6 a.m. Mon		
Normal month to date	19.72"		Orlando	93/69	91/69	Aberdeen	190.44	-0.17
Year to date	19.72"		Phoenix	63/42	70/48	Columbus	163.53	+0.19
Normal year to date	16.23"		Seattle	49/38	52/43	Bevill	136.44	+0.04

MOON PHASES				SUN AND MOON			SOLUNAR TABLE		
New	First	Full	Last	Sunrise	Mon 6:37 AM	Tue 7:17 PM	The solar period indicates peak-feeding times for fish and game.		
Apr. 19th	Apr. 27th	Apr. 5th	Apr. 13th	Sunset	7:16 PM	7:17 PM	Major	5:38a	6:03a
				Moonrise	6:02 PM	7:01 PM	Minor	11:06p	11:47p
				Moonset	6:02 AM	6:27 AM	Major	5:39p	6:38p

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Macon woman dead after Hwy 69 wreck

One-car crash leaves one dead

DISPATCH STAFF REPORT

LOWNDES COUNTY — A Macon woman is dead after a one-car accident Friday night.

Mississippi Highway Patrol responded to a fa-

tal crash on Highway 69 in Lowndes County at 8:38 p.m. Friday. Carolyn Franks, 43, was traveling south on Highway 69 in a 2017 Ford Explorer when it ran off the roadway and collided with a tree, a

press release from MHP said.

Derrick Beckom, MHP public affairs officer, told The Dispatch no one else was involved in the crash — such as passengers — and the cause of the accident is currently under investigation by MHP.

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POSSUMHAW

Power of plants

The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature, To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body but the soul. — Alfred Austin, British Poet Laureate, 1896

On the first day of spring, I dig my fingers deep into the soft earth. I can feel its energy, and my spirits soar. — Helen Hayes, American actress, first woman to win an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, and Tony Award (1900-1993)



Shannon Bardwell

a sign of spring. Trees along the Natchez Trace had leafed out before our very eyes. At home, hosts from last year had pushed through the dirt and were now five inches high. Periwinkle was starting to spread and showed off a few blue blooms.

Roses were leafing. A vine with one large purple clematis bloom was winding its way up the trellis by the perennial garden. All the green growing plants made me think maybe I'd try some kind of fruit, vegetable, herb, garden again. I have never been very good with food gardens, but I'm feeling lucky this year. I love the idea of feeding off our land.

We hadn't been home but a couple of days when I headed for the local garden center. I told Sam, "I've got to get there

early. I doubt seriously if there will be an abundance of plants due to the pandemic years and the wintery freezes. Even during normal times plants go fast."

I arrived feeling like a child at Disney World as I walked into the garden center's greenhouse. There were rows and rows of flowers in a million colors. Ferns hung from the racks and mixed flowers too. I walked slowly, enjoying each grouping, sometimes reading the little card with common names and exotics too. Perhaps I'd add more flowers later but for now we are growing edibles.

Oh, you could eat pansies and a few other flowers but don't hold me to that.

Leaving the plants on the front porch I headed to the sunroom where I noticed a dozen gardening books. Particularly the "Square Foot" garden. It had seemed so easy. What it had not considered was living in the Prairie where deer, raccoons, possums, birds, armadillos, mice, tomato worms, parsley worms, white flies, and other critters would eat the plants or dig up the garden. We tried lights, radios, flimsy fences, aluminum foil and scarecrows even spraying

plants with dish soap all to no avail.

This year the food plants will be planted some in pots, some inside the greenhouse's raised beds, and some inside the perennial fence. A tentative start from the garden center purchase included Sweet 100 cherry tomatoes, grape tomatoes, sweet peppers, and the herbs, fernleaf dill and plain Italian parsley. This is just a start as soon as night temperatures are above 40 degrees.

While strolling through the rows and rows of flowers I connected with a friend I had not seen since spring of 2020. She said, "I've been coming here every day. It's all so lovely. I'll probably go home with those deep dark petunias today."

Sunshine, growing things, flowers, herbs, friends, it's all so good for the soul.

Shannon Bardwell is a writer living quietly in the Prairie. Email reaches her at msdel-tachild@msn.com.



MISSISSIPPI VOICES

Why I support Scott Colom for District Court Judge

BY MIA PARKER

Growing up in Leakesville, Mississippi, I would've never imagined walking the halls of congress and working on Capitol Hill for a United States Senator. But, because of the generosity and kindness of Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, I had the experience of a lifetime working with the Senator's office from September 2019 until April 2020. I'm eternally grateful to the Senator and her office for the wonderful experience and will take it with me as I soon graduate from George Washington University with a bachelor of science in economics.

As grateful as I am for that experience, I do have one additional favor to ask Senator Hyde-Smith and Senator Wicker. I respectfully hope they would support the judicial nomination of another person I owe a debt of gratitude: Scott Colom.

I first met Scott Colom as a junior in high school at the Mississippi School for Math and Science. Thinking I signed up for a speech class, I was surprised when he said the class would focus on evidence, trial advocacy, and legal procedure in preparation for us to compete at the annual Mississippi Bar mock trial competition. He warned the class would include materials taught in law school and that the school had placed in the top five of the competition for the last seven years. I had made up my mind to drop the class until Mr. Colom said that only the best of the best could handle his commitment to making sure we learned the materials and competed well at the competition. That challenge, the caution that only the best of the best could handle his class, was just the motivation I needed to stay put.

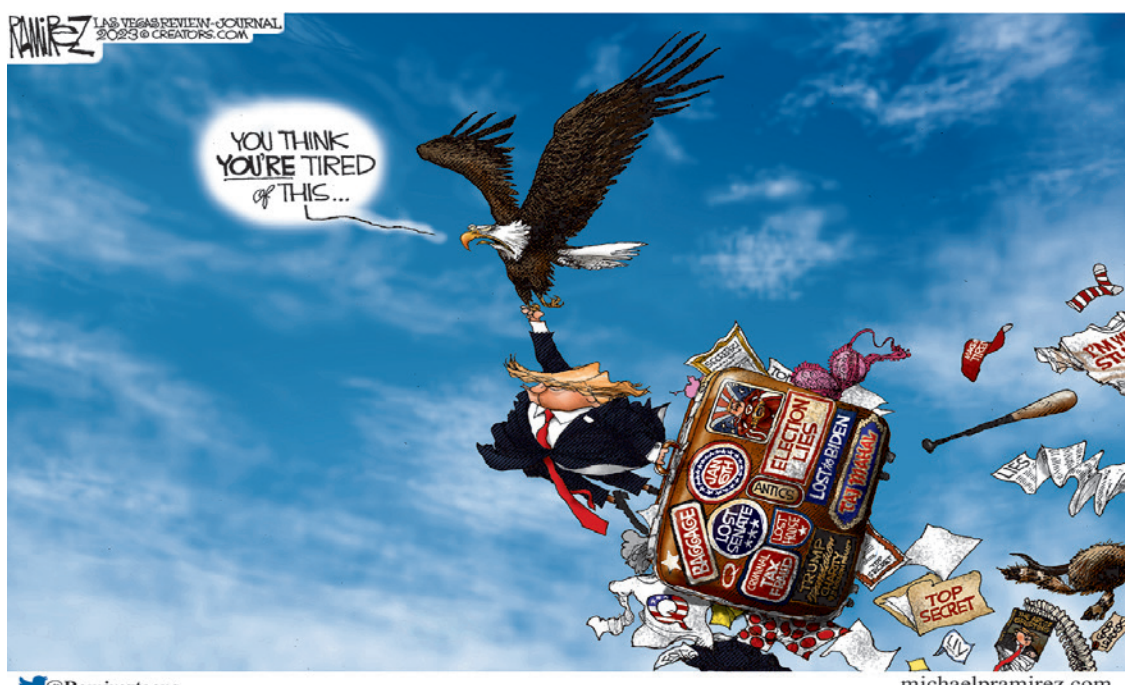
Over the next two years, not only did Mr. Colom keep his promise to get the best out of the class, but he gave it everything he had in doing so. He drilled the rules of evidence in us like we were law students. He came to every class with new ideas about how we could present characters or tighten our case theories, while always making sure to instill in us the larger principles about the rule of law and the importance of lawyers in our justice system. But even outside the weekly classes, Scott was always available to meet students one-on-one to discuss the issues presented, as well as general thoughts about the law or a legal career. I can hear him now, reminding us for the hundredth time to "use your hands, use your voice."

In the end, all the hard work and dedication was more than worth it. My first year, we got 4th place at the statewide competition and, as a senior, we got second place.

Unlike most of my teachers, though, that wasn't the end of my relationship with Mr. Colom. After graduation, he would randomly check up on me. He knew I had gone to college at George Washington in Washington, D.C. and didn't grow up with a lot of resources in small town Leakesville. When Covid-19 hit in 2020 and school went virtual, I was in a terrible bind because the internet at my house wasn't good enough to take virtual classes, but I couldn't afford the housing in D.C. with the dorms closed on campus. I mentioned the dilemma to Mr. Colom in passing, not thinking he could do anything to help me, and he immediately offered to allow me to stay rent-free at an apartment his family owned so I could have high quality internet not to miss a year of school.

This one story gives you a taste of the type of person Mr. Colom is and why I know he would be a fantastic federal judge for the Northern District of Mississippi. He embodies the highest standards of integrity and a commitment to preserving the fundamental rights secured in the constitution and laws of the United States for all Mississippians. But, most of all, I can promise Senator Hyde-Smith and Senator Wicker, that Mr. Colom loves Mississippi and all its people and will go out of his way to help the young people of Mississippi be the best they can be.

Mia Parker is a senior economics student at The George Washington University. She graduated from Mississippi School of Math and Science in Columbus in 2019.



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FROM JACKSON

Lawmakers turn away billions in federal funds as they pour state funds into health care

As the Mississippi Senate recently was considering and passing legislation to provide \$103 million for a grant program for the state's beleaguered hospitals, Sen. Angela Hill, R-Picayune, asked a pertinent question.

She wanted to know if the \$103 million would provide real help for the hospitals — many of which experts say are in danger of closing.

"Just looking at the totals, it looks to me like these individual hospitals will burn through this pretty fast," she said during debate of the bill on the Senate floor. "So, I guess my question is was there any thought, if an aggregative amount of \$103 million that has been split up by what looks like 100 hospitals or more, could that have had a greater impact in any other shape or form?"

Hill, a fiscal conservative, was looking for ways to get more bang for the buck. If only there were a way to do so.

Senate Medicaid Chair Kevin Blackwell, R-Southaven confessed to Hill that, "We didn't look at any other funding mechanism."

But both Hill and Blackwell had been told about other options — less than 24 hours earlier on the Senate floor, in fact.

"The most important thing Mississippi can do to help our hospitals is expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act," said Sen. David Blount, D-Jackson. "The choice you are making with this legislation is you put \$100 million in the fund and get \$100 million, or you put \$100 million in a fund allowing Medicaid expansion and you get \$1 billion."

Projections are that it would cost the state about \$100 million annually to expand Medicaid to cover primarily the working poor. According to projections, that \$100 million would be about the state



Bobby Harrison

match needed to pull down more than \$1 billion in federal funds annually that Blount referenced.

And based on projections made by the University Research Center, Medicaid expansion would result in much more than \$1 billion annually to the state for the first two years of Medicaid expansion. Because of incentives offered by the federal government under COVID-19 relief legislation, it is estimated the state would receive \$1.61 billion the first year and \$1.64 billion the second year of expansion. After the first two years of expansion, the incentives would go away, but the state still would be receiving more than \$1 billion annually in federal funds.

The theory is that the \$1 billion would help health care providers, especially hospitals, because they would be treating fewer people with no insurance and no ability to pay.

Hill was not asking her question because she is touting Medicaid expansion. As a conservative Republican, she has long voiced her opposition to Medicaid expansion. Many conservative Republicans, including Gov. Tate Reeves and Speaker Philip Gunn, say they oppose the big government expansion.

And Blackwell could rightfully point out the \$103 million being directed to the hospitals is from federal COVID-19 legislation and would not be available in the coming years to provide the required annual state match to expand Medicaid.

But the day before Hill asked her question, Sen. Hob Bryan, D-Amory, told members that Medicaid expansion would not cost the state anything.

Because of the multiplier effect of the federal fund and because of other factors, "the state treasury would make money. In theory there

is a state match, but in practice there is not a match at all. In practice, the state treasury is doing without money because of the prohibition on Medicaid expansion."

Various studies back up Bryan's bold claim.

The 2021 University Research Center study, for instance, found that the 10 percent matching costs the state must provide if it expanded Medicaid would be more than covered by health care-related savings to the state and new tax revenue generated.

More and more states are reaching the conclusion that Medicaid expansion makes money for them. Forty states have expanded Medicaid, leaving Mississippi behind 80 percent of the country.

First it was just so-called blue or Democratic states expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. But in more recent years, red or Republican states have followed suit. States like Montana, Utah, North Dakota and South Dakota have expanded Medicaid. Those that have not, for the most part, are located across the Southeast.

But the number of Southern states not expanding Medicaid also is dwindling. Just in recent days, a Republican-controlled Legislature in North Carolina sent to Democrat Gov. Roy Cooper a bill he signed into law expanding Medicaid.

But instead of expanding Medicaid, Mississippi legislators continue to provide state funds to help hospitals and other health care providers one dollar at a time instead of using that dollar to get at least \$9 in federal funds.

"This hospital grant program is putting a Band-Aid on a situation in this state that requires surgery," said Sen. Derrick Simmons, D-Greenville.

Bobby Harrison, Mississippi Today's senior capitol reporter, covers politics, government and the Mississippi State Legislature. He can be reached at bharrison@mississippitoday.org

AREA OBITUARIES

COMMERCIAL DISPATCH OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries with basic information including visitation and service times, are provided free of charge. Extended obituaries with a photograph, detailed biographical information and other details families may wish to include, are available for a fee. Obituaries must be submitted through funeral homes unless the deceased's body has been donated to science. If the deceased's body was donated to science, the family must provide official proof of death. Please submit all obituaries on the form provided by The Commercial Dispatch. Free notices must be submitted to the newspaper no later than 3 p.m. the day prior for publication Tuesday through Friday; no later than 4 p.m. Saturday for the Sunday edition; and no later than 7:30 a.m. for the Monday edition. Incomplete notices must be received no later than 7:30 a.m. for the Monday through Friday editions. Paid notices must be finalized by 3 p.m. for inclusion the next day Monday through Thursday; and on Friday by 3 p.m. for Sunday and Monday publication. For more information, call 662-328-2471.

Wilford Rachal

COLUMBUS — Wilford Rachal, 79, died on April 1, 2023, at Vineyard Court.

Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Lowndes Funeral Home. Lowndes Funeral Home of Columbus is in charge of arrangements.

Dealma Dickinson

ALICEVILLE, Ala. — Dealma W. Dickinson, 93, died on March 30, 2023, at her residence.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, at Mt. Hebron

Baptist Church, with Rev. Marcus Wright officiating. Burial will follow at the church cemetery. Lavender's Funeral Service of Aliceville is in charge of arrangements.

Dolphier Horne

NOXUBEE COUNTY — Dolphier Horne, 42, died on March 31, 2023.

Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Carter's Funeral Services. Carter's Funeral Services of Macon is in charge of arrangements.

Carrie Franks

MACON — Carrie Franks, 43, died on March 31, 2023.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today, at Cooksville Methodist Church. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation will be from noon-2 p.m. prior to services at the church. Cockrell Funeral Home of Macon is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Franks was born in Blytheville, Arkansas, to Joe and Susan Johnson. She was formerly employed by Shuqualak Lumber Company.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her grandmother, Carolyn Braswell; daughters, Layla and Laurel; and

brothers, Todd and Brian.

Memorials may be made to Children International, P.O. Box 219055, Kansas City, MO 64121,

Joe Carden

STARKVILLE — Joe Elwood Carden, 75, died on March 31, 2023, at his residence.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m. Monday, at Welch's Funeral Home. Burial and graveside followed at Shady Grove United Methodist Church in Ethel. Visitation was from noon-2 p.m. prior to services at the funeral home. Welch's Funeral Home of Starkville is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Carden was born on April 22, 1947, in Mathiston, to the late John Vardie Carden and Ruth Oswalt Carden. He was a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. He was a graduate of Mathiston High School, attended Wood Junior College, and was a graduate of Holmes Junior College with an Associates Degree in heating and cooling. He was formerly employed at the Physical Plant of Mississippi State University and was in the Mississippi Army National Guard.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his

siblings, Ann Pinnix, Johnny Carden and James Carden.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria Pee Carden; son, Dr. Chris Carden of Cordova, Tennessee; and brother, Jimmy Carden.


Pallbearers were Matthew Carden, Marc Carden, Broc Carden, Cody Carden, Craig Pee and Shawn Pee.

Memorials may be made to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 820 Evergreen St., Starkville, MS 39759; Double Springs Baptist Church, 375 Bluiett Rd, Maben, MS 39750; or Shady Grove Community Association, P.O. Box 1304, Kosciusko, MS 39090.

Rollie Wallace

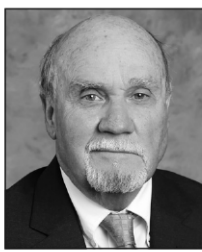
GUIN, Ala. — Rollie June "Spodo" Wallace, 76, died March 29, 2023, at his residence.

Funeral services



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were at 1 p.m. Monday, at Otts Funeral Home Chapel, with Bobby Terrell officiating. Burial followed at Fairview Cemetery. Visitation was one hour prior to services at the funeral home. Otts Funeral Home of Sulligent was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Wallace was born on June 6, 1946, in Lamar County, to the late R.D. Wallace and Annie Dell Smith Wallace. He attended school in Guin. He was formerly employed in lawncare by the City

of Guin. He was a member of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Jimmy Don Wallace, Billy Wallace, Willie Dean Wallace and Mae Lou Walker.

He is survived by his sisters, Lessie Hollis of Guin, Maudina Ogden and Martha Wilson, both of Birmingham, Alabama.

Pallbearers will be George Wallace, Jimmy Jones, Jerry Stowe, Lee Hollis, Ricky True-love and Dean Stowe.

Rev. Dr. Milton Fileds

Rev. Dr. Milton Brown Fields, age 81, of Ethelsville, AL, passed away March 28, 2023, at his residence.

Funeral services were 11:00 AM Saturday, April 1, 2023, at Skelton Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Ben Logan, Rev. Roy Plymon, Rev. Dennis Owen and Dr. Greg Ketteman officiating. Burial followed in Mt. Moriah Free Will Baptist Church Cemetery with Skelton Funeral Home of Reform directing. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 1/2 years, Helen Ruth Finch Fields; his parents; and brother, Freddie Fields.

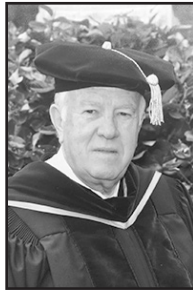
Survivors include his son, Stephen Fields and wife, Carol Ann of Columbus, MS; and granddaughter, Victoria Erin Fields Mann and husband, Ryan.

Milton was born April 26, 1941, in Millport, Alabama, to the late Rev. O. L. Fields and Lois Ruth Brown Fields. He was a member of Mt. Moriah Free Will Baptist Church and retired minister and educator at Welch College in Gallatin, Tennessee. Dr. Fields joined the Welch faculty in 1994 as chairman of the Teacher Education Department. He served as Academic Dean (1998-2006), Vice President for Institutional Planning (2006-2011), and a member of the President's Leadership Team. He retired in May 2011.

Pallbearers were Jimmy McDill, Tim Brasher, Brandon Mullenix, Brian McDill, John Fields and Ryan Mann.

Honorary Pallbearers were Jonathan Owen, Michael Hamm, Earl Sims, Marty Hawkins and Jaimie Lancaster.

Paid Obituary - Skelton Funeral Home



Fetterman leaves Walter Reed with depression 'in remission'

BY MARC LEVY

The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman has left Walter Reed National Military Medical Center after six weeks of inpatient treatment for clinical depression, with plans to return to the Senate when the chamber resumes session in mid-April, his office said Friday.

In a statement, Fetterman's office said he is back home in Braddock, in western Pennsylvania, with his depression "in remission," and gave details on his

treatment — including that his depression was treated with medication and that he is wearing hearing aids for hearing loss.

It was the latest medical episode for the Democrat, who won last fall's most expensive Senate contest after suffering a stroke that he has said nearly killed him and from which he continues to recover.


Fetterman, who has a wife and three school-age children, said he is happy to be home.

"I'm excited to be the father and husband I want to be, and the senator

Pennsylvania deserves. Pennsylvanians have always had my back, and I will always have theirs," said Fetterman said.

Over 3,000 years ago, Egyptian burials were ceremonious and are still being remembered.

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Billy Shaw

Billy Shaw, 82, of Jemison, AL, passed away Thursday, March 30, 2023, at Brookwood Medical Center, Birmingham, AL.

Visitation will be Wednesday, April 5, 2023, from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Lowndes Funeral Home, Columbus, MS. A funeral service will follow at 12:00 PM in the Lowndes Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Jeff Long officiating. The interment will be at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Columbus, MS, with Lowndes Funeral Home directing.

Mr. Shaw was born November 5, 1940, in Millport, AL, to the late Ivadean Higdon Shaw and Morris Shaw. He attended Liberty School and after graduation worked several jobs before forming his own company, BAMA Building Crafts which he maintained till his passing. Mr. Shaw was an avid outdoorsman; he enjoyed quail hunting, pheasant hunting, bear hunting, and fishing. He also was a NASCAR fan and loved Alabama Football. Mr. Shaw moved to Jemison, AL in 2004, and enjoyed making their property a safe haven for their animals. He never met a stranger and loved sharing his life in Jemison with everyone.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Shaw was preceded in death by his older brother, James Shaw; and brother-in-law, Lewis Walter Robertson.

Mr. Shaw is survived by his wife of 57 years, Joyce Junkin Shaw; sister, Earlene Robertson; brothers, Ralph (Toni) Shaw and Earl (Peggy) Shaw.

Pallbearers will be Barry Shaw, Danny Joe Shaw, Lynn Shaw, Rodger Shaw, Robbie Shaw and Shane Robertson.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Drake Hayes, Johnnie Hayes, Wesley Farmer, Lee Headley, Barry Hayes, Wayne Farmer and Jerry Shaw.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to your local Humane Society.



Brenda Adams

Brenda Kay Adams, age 75, died Friday, March 31, 2023, at her residence in Columbus.

Services were held Monday April 3, 2023, at 12:00 Noon at Memorial Gunter Peel Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Kenny Gardner officiating; burial followed at Memorial Gardens of Columbus. Visitation was held Monday one hour prior to service at the funeral home.

Mrs. Adams was born in Columbus, on March 17, 1948, to the late William C. Wharton and Polly Powell Davis. She spent her entire lifetime in Columbus and over the years was a beautician at Magic Mirror Salon, a Coil Winder at Baldor Electric, a machine operator at Microtek, a waitress at Doug & Hazels, and later opened Sis's Place Restuarant with two of her sisters. After the restaurant closed, she became a stay-at-home housewife.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by, her sister Patsy Burgess.

Survivors include her husband, Harry Adams, of Columbus; sons, Tracy Crowson, (Julie), of Denver, NC, and Josh Adams, of Columbus; grandchildren, Taylor Wiegel, Samuel Crowson, Destinee Crowson, Rebecca Adams, Allie Adams and Seth Adams; great-grandchildren, Maykala Wiegel, Brenda Wiegel, Hailey Wiegel and Lil Sam Crowson; sister, Vanessa Henry; and brother, Tony Wharton.

Serving as pallbearers will be James Burgess, Darrell Nabors, Seth Adams, Chad Waltman, Mike Harris, Doug Baswell, Adian Baswell, Skylar Baswell and Rodney Aldridge.




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Health



HEALTH TIP

■ **Home truths:** Saving your leftovers? Cool and store within 90 minutes and eat within two days (unless freezing) for safe consumption.
Source: www.goodhousekeeping.com

Health tips from Dr. Mike Roizen

Leafy greens help protect you from Alzheimer's

A group of northern New York organic vegetable farmers, who call themselves the Local Farmers Union, (try to) use “Veggie Folk Rock” music to promote local crops. My favorite titles are “Turnip the Beet” and “The Kale Song,” which goes something like this: “Come on everybody let’s eat some kale/I like to make kale chips/I like kale in my stir-fry/let’s go eat some kale.”

There’s good science in their lyrics, according to a recent study that found that eating seven or more servings a week of green leafy vegetables like kale, spinach and collard greens slashes the risk

for Alzheimer’s-related brain changes, compared to folks eating only one or two servings weekly. Researchers followed 581 people for almost seven years from a mean age of 84 to 91. Then, after death, they did brain autopsies to see the relationship between diet and Alzheimer’s pathology, such as beta-amyloid load and Tau neurofibrillary tangles. It turns out that enthusiastic fans of kale (and other greens) had brains that were four to eight or more years younger than folks who didn’t enjoy leafy greens. And the MIND diet (it prioritizes green



Dr. Mike Roizen

leafy vegetables, berries, one-plus servings of fish weekly and a small amount of wine) was most effective in preventing Alzheimer’s pathology.

Seven servings of leafy greens a week equals 1/2 a cup of cooked leafy greens a day plus a weekly total of 3 1/2 cups of raw greens, such as arugula, spinach and kale. So, check out your local farmers market – and enjoy!

Mike Roizen, M.D. is Chief Wellness Officer and Chair of Wellness Institute at Cleveland Clinic.



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Northstar

Continued from Page 1A

timeline, she had already sought approval for the contractor by the Mississippi Development Authority. She said the agency responded with approval in “record time.”

The board voted unanimously to accept the bid so the project could move forward. Board President Orlando Trainer told The Dispatch he believes the land service company can clear the trees by the deadline.

“If they can get everything approved ... which they should be able to in the next day or so, they’ll have about five weeks to work there,” Trainer said. “They should be able to get the work done. ... We’re just excited about it and looking forward to moving forward so we can be prepared for the next interested client who wants to move in there.”

Pedestrian grant for Hwy 12, Spring St.

Later in the meeting, the board committed

\$60,000 to a joint project between the city, county, and MSU to update the intersection on Highway 12 and Spring Street to make it safer for cyclists and pedestrians. This includes adding pedestrian striping, push buttons and bike lanes through the area.

Cody Burnett, city engineer for Starkville, told the board that walking or biking through this area is “kind of like taking your life into your own hands.”



Burnett

“You guys probably know that intersection is really big and really unsafe,” Burnett said. “... But with that money, if we can get that intersection brought up to ADA compliance, stripe it out, get pedestrian push buttons and bike lanes ... everything is ready to go ... that way when we go to apply for future funding, we can tie in that intersection with

no issues at all. It’s ready to go.”

Burnett said this intersection update was originally a part of a larger plan to connect three walking paths from “hubs” in the city to the MSU campus, which they submitted to the Mississippi Department of Transportation in hopes of receiving a Transportation Alternative Programs grant.

“We have these three really nice, large pedestrian improvements ... but they don’t connect in any way. The goal of this project is to connect all three of those projects together with one uniform project,” Burnett said.

But when MDOT rejected the original grant request, which would have reached about \$2.4 million, Burnett said the city broke up the project into phases. The first phase is updating the large, dangerous intersection.

Even after restructuring the project, the city received only \$400,000 from MDOT with a 20 percent

match for the first phase of the project, leading Burnett to ask the city, county, and Mississippi State University to each chip in \$60,000.

District 5 Supervisor Joe Williams asked if there was going to be any more engineering work or funding work necessary before the entire project can be completed. Burnett said both will be ongoing, as only this one intersection update is designed right now.

The board of aldermen voted to commit one-third of the remaining funds to the project. The vote was 3-0, with District 1 Supervisor John Montgomery Jr. abstaining and District 4 Supervisor Bricklee Miller absent.

Za-Za

Continued from Page 1A

topher Montgomery, who passed away from an apparent overdose.

However, the path to enacting the ban did take some twists and turns during the discussion. Some board members wanted to ban Za-Za immediately, while others wanted to wait the traditional 30 days after passage before the ordinance went into effect.

“Since I’ve been on the board, every ordinance we’ve passed has been laid on the table for 30 days,” Brooks said. “We need to follow the procedure.”

Sheriff Eddie Hawkins didn’t want to wait.

“On the (ordinance banning) kratom, we didn’t do that,” Hawkins said. “It passed and went into effect that day.”



Hawkins

County Attorney Tim Hudson said the problem with an immediate ban was the fact that the ordinance also banned possession.

“The problem is not the stores, it’s making it illegal to possess,” he said. “If I’ve got it in my pocket and you put it into effect today, I am violating the law when I get up and walk out.”

Hudson suggested the board make a finding Za-Za is a public health emergency if it intended to circumvent the 30-day waiting period.

Brooks thought the supervisors needed to be more cautious.

“One or two cases (of overdoses) does not sub-

stantiate a crisis,” Brooks said. “... I know we’re trying to do something for the good of the community, but we don’t want to set precedents we’re going to have to deal with down the road. Tomorrow, if someone else comes in with something else, we’ve set a precedent.”

County Administrator Jay Fisher suggested toning down the language of the finding.

“As opposed to a health crisis, make a finding that it creates a public health danger,” Fisher said. “Don’t use ‘emergency’ or ‘crisis’ or any of those official terms.”



Fisher

Hudson said the courts would not “second guess” the supervisors’ reasoning. “They just want you to have some basis, and the testimony today is the basis,” Hudson said.

District 3 Supervisor John Holliman moved, with a second by District 1 Supervisor Harry Sanders, to ban tianeptine until July 1, with the ban going into effect on April 13. The motion passed unanimously.

The city of Columbus banned Za-Za at a Feb. 21 council meeting. That ordinance declared it a public health emergency and went into effect immediately.

Tornado shelters

In other business, District 4 Supervisor Jeff Smith suggested the

county look at Federal Emergency Management Agency mitigation grants to build storm shelters.

The county does not have any dedicated public storm shelters currently, although Caledonia High School, New Hope High School and the Career Technology Center are all open to the public when school is not in session.

“I saw an article in the paper where the city is considering reaching out to a consultant to help them secure safe rooms and storm shelters for the city,” Smith said. “Is that something that we need to look at?”



Smith

Brooks suggested having Emergency Management Agency Director Cindy Lawrence come to the next meeting to talk about it.

“You’ve got (grants for) individual shelters and you’ve got public shelters,” Brooks said. “I think before we do anything we have (Lawrence) come and explain the options.”

Smith said he was getting a lot of questions about shelters in the wake of recent deadly tornadoes, including those that hit Rolling Fork and Monroe County last month.

“These storms are really making the conversation (about shelters) more of a conversation,” he said.

Smith asked that Lawrence come to the board’s April 17 meeting.

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This voucher program is intended to assist families and individuals who identify with having a critical need for relief from caregiving. This publication/project was supported by Grant Number 90LRL0037-01-00 from Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Should you have any questions about MAC Center please feel free to call 1-844-822-4622

Caregivers are encouraged to choose care providers who have the skills necessary to manage the special care needs of family members. Each family is responsible for choosing a care provider. If you need assistance to locate a respite care provider in your area, please call toll-free to reach a MAC Center Specialist near you (1-844-822-4622).

Each Provider:

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- Cannot receive payment before respite services are provided

Respite care can be provided in the following places:

- The caregiver’s home or approved site by caregiver (examples: parks, restaurants, movies)
- A licensed care center

Vouchers can only be used to pay for breaks (respite) for caregivers. They may NOT be used to:

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- Pay for care that occurred before the voucher was issued.
- Pay medical bills or purchase medical supplies.
- Offset the cost of paid care already in place.



To find your local MAC Center

SCAN HERE

This publication/project was supported by Grant Number 90LRL0037-01-00 from Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Should you have any questions about MAC Center please feel free to call 1-844-822-4622



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OLE MISS BASEBALL

What we learned about Ole Miss baseball following its weekend at Texas A&M

Rebels lost two of three against Aggies in College Station

BY MICHAEL KATZ
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal

Ole Miss baseball is getting closer to where it wants and needs to be in 2023. But, for now, there is still work to be done where it matters most — the win/loss column.

The Rebels (16-11, 1-8 SEC) dropped two of three at Texas A&M over the weekend. While Ole Miss was able to notch its first SEC win of the season in a 14-7 Game 2 win, losses in the first and

last game of the series dropped the Rebels to 0-3 in conference series this season. The two losses came by a combined three runs.

Ole Miss led 4-3 in Game 1 before errors cost the Rebels four unearned runs in the bottom of the seventh. Junior left fielder Kemp Alderman hit a two-run home run in the ninth to close the gap, but they ultimately dropped the game 8-6.

In the series finale, the Rebels jumped out to a 3-0 lead, fell behind 4-3

and tied the game with a sacrifice fly from junior third baseman Reagan Burford in the top of the ninth. Texas A&M's Ryan Targac then hit a walk-off home run in the bottom of the inning off sophomore reliever Mason Nichols, who hadn't give up a hit in more than two innings of work prior to the game-winner.

In Saturday's win, Ole Miss had eight two-out RBIs. In the two other games, the Rebels had two combined, with none of those coming Sunday.

Ole Miss plays at Memphis Tuesday night before starting a three-game

See **OLE MISS**, 2B



Bella Wood/Ole Miss athletics

Ole Miss baseball lost two of three over the weekend in College Station against Texas A&M, looking to steal the series on Sunday, but losing via a walk-off homer in the bottom of the ninth inning.

MISSISSIPPI STATE SOFTBALL

Bulldogs look to right the ship early in conference play

Team losing streak now at 5 after Arkansas sweep

BY ALEX MURPHY
amurphy@cdispatch.com

STARKVILLE — A four-game Southeastern Conference losing streak looked all but over for Mississippi State softball heading into the top of the seventh inning on Sunday.

Down 3-2 in the bottom of the sixth, Matalasi Faapito gave the Bulldogs a 4-3 lead with a massive two-run homer into right-center field.

It was the jolt this team had been looking for, but that jolt lasted all of five minutes as No. 10 Arkansas took the lead back and won, 5-4, with a two-run homer in the seventh from Raigan Kramer.

From salvaging a game to getting swept, the Bulldogs now are on a five-game SEC losing streak, searching for consistency in the early going, but spirits are still very high.

"This series was definitely a learning lesson for us," Faapito said Sunday. "It doesn't feel good, but we just have to turn the page and push forward for next weekend. It's good that we lose. We learn from things, learn from our mistakes and work for each other."

The Bulldogs (23-13, 3-5 SEC) twice faced reigning SEC Pitcher of the Year Chenise Delce in the series.

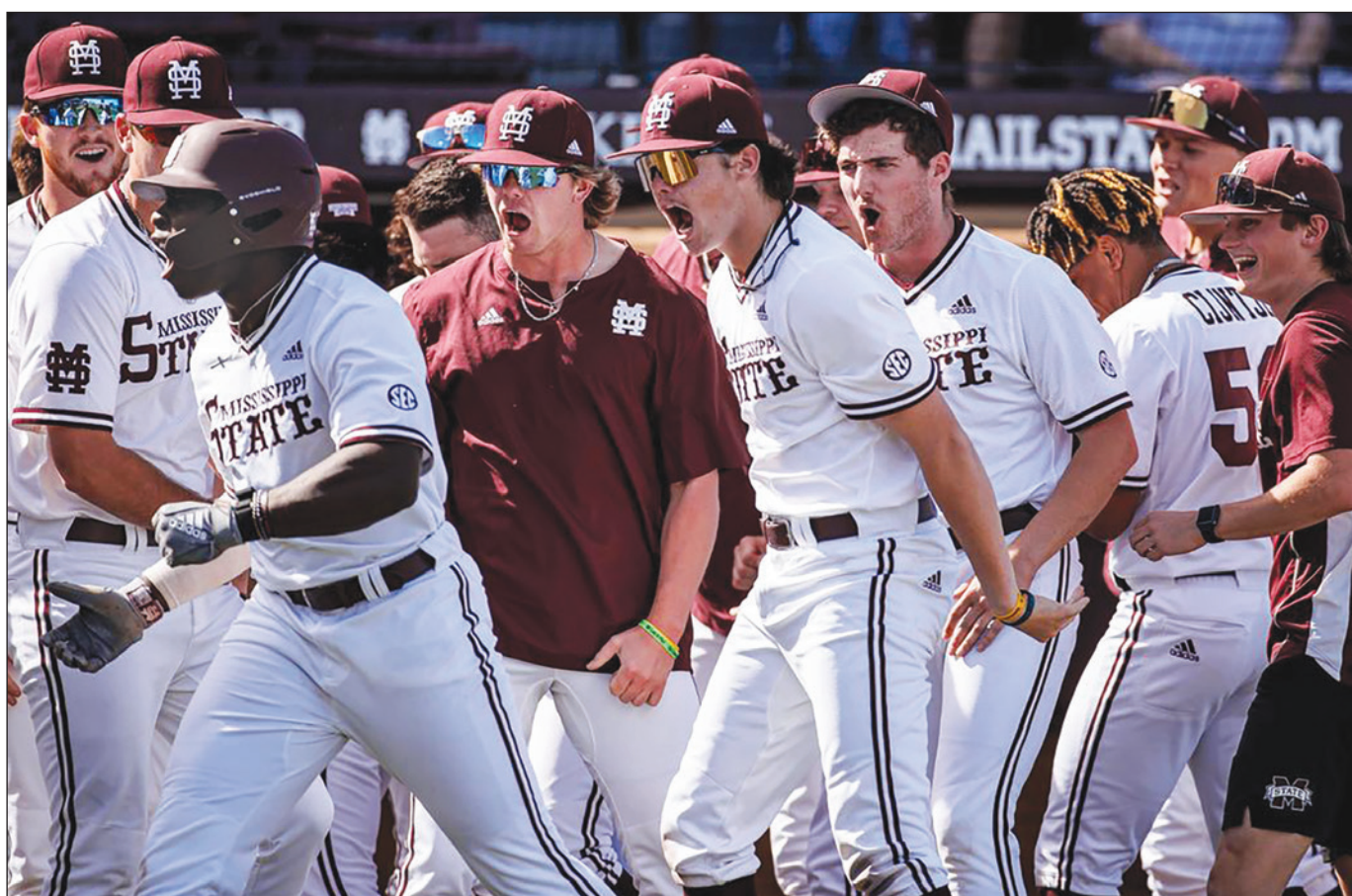
Delce threw a complete game in Friday's 4-2 win and came back to close things out in a one-run game on Sunday.

Saturday's game felt like a wash, not indicative of the series as a whole as the Razorbacks won, 11-0, in five innings. Starter

See **BULLDOGS**, 2B

MISSISSIPPI STATE BASEBALL

'We freaking give it to them'



Will Porada/Mississippi State athletics

Mississippi State baseball players celebrate after Dakota Jordan's go-ahead homer in the sixth inning of Saturday's game against No. 9 South Carolina. The Bulldogs gave up seven runs in the ninth to lose, 14-5, losing two of three to the Gamecocks.

Lemonis, Bulldogs rue missed chances against South Carolina

BY COLIN DAMMS
cdamms@cdispatch.com

It's fair to say that the South Carolina series was a case of mixed results for Mississippi State baseball.

The Bulldogs (16-13, 1-8 SEC) won game two in dominant fashion, and went toe to toe with the Gamecocks (26-3, 8-1 SEC) for nearly the entirety of the first and third games. Game one was lost 6-4 with a chance to walk off on the final at

bat, while the third game snowballed out of control as they disastrously conceded 10 runs in the final two innings, losing 14-5 after leading 5-4 at the start of the seventh.

In an emotional post-game press conference, head coach Chris Lemonis rued the missed opportunity to take the home conference series. His voice was raspy as he talked about his team giving it away too eas-

ily after fighting so hard all weekend.

"Seventh inning, we're winning," he said. "We have a chance to have a great series win, but we don't make them have to earn it. We freaking give it to them. It's frustrating. We're this close to getting this going and being a good team, and we lack aggression."

The collapse at the end of game three was indicative of the Bulldogs' biggest problems this year: Finding consistency on the mound.

Simply put, the Bulldog bullpen has been a critical

weakness in the team, and was at the heart of the collapse in Game three.

Six pitchers were used in the final four innings, allowing 11 of South Carolina's 14 runs on the day. Starter Nate Dohm gave up three runs in the first two innings but recovered nicely to shut the visitors out over the next three while registering a season-high nine strikeouts.

"The reason they're where they're at and we're where we're at is those little pieces of lack of execution,"

See **BASEBALL**, 2B

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Jonathan Comer takes over as Caledonia boys basketball head coach

Comer has been the Cavaliers' assistant coach for past two years

BY ALEX MURPHY
amurphy@cdispatch.com

Caledonia head coach Tony Seals has retired after nearly four decades of coaching between Mississippi and Alabama.

That left a big spot to fill for the Cavaliers, and on Friday, news broke that assistant head coach Jonathan Comer was named the new head coach for the program.

A Caledonia native and 2014 CHS graduate, coming back to the program as an assistant meant a lot, he said. To take over

the reins of the program means that much more.

"I was extremely blessed and honored," Comer said. "... When I got into the coaching profession four years ago, this was ultimately the goal for me."

With Seals having been with the program for a few years, it continued a trend that Comer has seen since graduating of short coaching stints for the boys team.

His pitch and goal in becoming head coach was to be the long-term solution for the program, and

at the age of 27, taking over for the Cavs, there's plenty of coaching ahead for him.

"A big thing for them and for me was looking for someone who wanted to stay and build upon the tradition that we've had in the past," Comer said. "You know that saying, it's kind of cliché, but there's no place like home. Caledonia is home and winning at home means more."

Comer inherits a program that lost in the first round of the Mississippi High School Activities Association Class 4A playoffs this past season to eventual state champions Yazoo City.

The Cavaliers made a run for it in the district tournament, but came up short at Itawamba Community College.

Returning a cast of players, next year's team looks to be a senior-heavy squad, but it is one that will set the tone for Comer's head coaching tenure at Caledonia.

"I'm returning eight incoming seniors," Comer said. "The expectation for basketball at Caledonia is really high for next year. I expect us to compete for a district championship. That's my goal for the upcoming year. That's really big for us."



Melissa Holley/Caledonia Middle School

Caledonia boys assistant coach Jonathan Comer was named the next head coach in program history on Friday. Comer has been the assistant for the Cavaliers for the past two seasons under now-retired head coach Tony Seals.

OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Where Ole Miss stands in its latest recruiting efforts

BY MICHAEL KATZ

Northwest Mississippi Daily Journal

OXFORD — There's a lot being done on the recruiting trail in several Ole Miss sports — and, in the era of the transfer portal, part of that is recruiting your own talent to stay. Here is where football and men's and women's basketball currently stand in their recent recruiting efforts.

Football

The Rebels keep winning Mississippi, picking up two in-state recruits for the class of 2024 late last month.

Head coach Lane Kiffin and defensive coordinator Pete

Golding bolstered the defensive line with the commitment of defensive lineman Jeffrey Rush late last month. The Pascagoula product is a four-star recruit in the 2024 class and is ranked inside the top-150 players nationally by 247Sports' composite. The 6-foot-3, 250-pounder had offers from Arkansas, Auburn, Florida State, Mississippi State and Miami, among others.

Three-star running back Chris Davis committed to Ole Miss on March 23. The Picayune native had offers from Arkansas, Auburn, Mississippi State, Penn State and Oregon, among others. The 5-foot-9, 175-pound back ran for 1,078 yards and 15 touchdowns last season

for Picayune High, averaging 8.8 yards per carry. He was teammates with Oregon signee Dante Dowdell, who ran for 2,165 yards and 31 scores.

Five of the six commits in the Rebels' 2024 class are from Mississippi, the other three being linebacker Fred Clark (Winona), wide receiver Jeremy Scott (Callaway/Jackson) and linebacker Raymond Collins (Jones College).

Women's basketball

On the heels of a run to the Sweet 16, head coach Yolett McPhee-McCuin picked up a major piece for the 2023-24 squad in North Carolina

guard Kennedy Todd-Williams. Todd-Williams — who will be a senior — was second-team All-ACC last season and averaged 13.4 points. With the departure of senior guards Myah Taylor and Angel Baker, Todd-Williams figures to play a big role for Ole Miss next season. She is out of Jacksonville High in North Carolina.

Men's basketball

New head coach Chris Beard's greatest feat thus far might not be in getting players to Ole Miss; it's been keeping them from leaving. Senior forward Jaemyn Brakefield entered the portal but will stay in

Oxford, he announced on social media last week. Brakefield was second on the team with 11.1 points and 5.7 rebounds per game last season. And while neither officially entered the portal, guards T.J. Caldwell and Matt Murrell are both returning. Caldwell, a sophomore, announced he was staying via social media. Murrell — a senior who led the Rebels at 14.4 points per game — is staying put as well, according to Leon Taylor of Memphis' 247Sports site, GoTigers247. Murrell is a Memphis native.

Sophomore guard Amaree Abram and junior guard James White are still in the transfer portal.

MLB game times cut 30 minutes, steals double under new rules

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball's new rules are working as hoped through the first four days of the season.

The average game time has dropped by 30 minutes, stolen bases have doubled and batting average has increased by 16 percentage points compared to last year's opening weekend.

Games averaged 2 hours, 38 minutes throughout Sunday with the new pitch clock, down from 3:08 for the first four days of the 2022 season and a 3:04 final average.

In the first year of restrictions on defensive shifts, the .246 batting average for nine-inning games was up from .230 over the first four days last year, when many games were played in cold and wet weather. Left-handed batting

average increased to .232 from .229 in last year's first four days and right-handed average went up to .254 from .230.

"We are extremely pleased with the early returns," Commissioner Rob Manfred said Monday. "Fan reaction has been positive to the brisker pace with more action. And players have made a great adjustment to the changes."

Larger bases have cut the distance between bags by 4 1/2 inches, and stolen bases rose to an average of 1.4 per game from 0.6.

"I think it's in everybody's mind, like, whoa, I can run more. And the more you run and you're successful with it, the more you're going to run," Los Angeles Angels manager Phil Nevin said.

Success rate on steal attempts rose to 85 per-

cent from 67.4 percent.

"If teams are going to be successful at it, then you're going to continue to see a high volume of teams pushing the envelope," New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

MLB felt it was about time for drastic change after the average time of nine-inning games rose from 2:33 in 1981 to 2:46 in 2005 and a record 3:10 in 2021. With the introduction of the PitchCom electronic device to signal pitches, the average dropped to 3:04 for the full 2022 season.

Over objections from players, the 11-man competition committee adopted a pitch clock of 15 seconds with no runners on base and 20 seconds with runners. It also required two infielders to be on either side of second base and all infielders to be within the outer boundary of the

infield when the pitcher is on the rubber. Players supported increasing bases to 18-inch squares from 15-by-15, proposed as a safety measure.

These were the most significant rule changes since the pitcher's mound was lowered from 15 inches to 10 for the 1969 season and the American League adopted the designated hitter in 1973, a rule that was extended to the National League in 2022 following its temporary use during the 2020 pandemic-shortened season.

"There's a lot more action and a lot more appealing product for the fans," Milwaukee Brewers owner Mark Attanasio said.

The clock has had a noticeable impact, with Colorado-San Diego taking 2:03 on Sunday, Cleveland-Seattle 2:04 on Saturday and the New York Mets-Miami 2:09

on Friday.

"I don't think it's wrong to take a semi-victory lap right now," Mets manager Buck Showalter said, "but we'll see how it evolves."

There were 41 pitch-clock violations in the first 50 games, an average of 0.82. Of those, 29 were on pitchers, 11 on batters and one on a catcher.

San Francisco and Cleveland tied for the high with four violations each, and Colorado, Detroit, Houston, the Los Angeles Dodgers, Milwaukee, Minnesota and Washington had none.

Sample size is small, with 50 games played of a scheduled 2,430, or just 2 percent. And early season offense tends to be depressed because of weather in the northwest and midwest — the ball travels better as temperature rises.

Stolen bases reached

a live ball-era high of a 0.85 per game in 1987, when Vince Coleman swiped 109. No one has reached 70 since Jacoby Ellsbury in 2009, and the 0.46 average in 2021 was the lowest in a half-century before an uptick to 0.51 last year.

Shift restriction impact has been more modest. Batting average on balls in play has increased from .295 for all of last year to .310 for right-handed hitters, while lefty BABIP rose from .283 to .288.

Specific instances stand out, such as a tying single to the right of second by Milwaukee's Jesse Winker during a three-run eighth-inning rally in Saturday's 3-1 win at the Chicago Cubs.

"Man, if we were shifted there, probably a double play and we get out of that," Ross said.

Ole Miss

Continued from Page 1B

series with No. 5 Arkansas Thursday. Tuesday's game starts at 6 p.m. and will be broadcast on ESPN+.

"We're close but not close enough. ... This league is just so unforgiving. And if you don't play well, you don't win," head coach Mike Bianco said. " ... This league, the teams are too good. And that's why, when you look at the

end of the day, the championship's usually won by a game, the west (division) is won by a game, teams don't make the (SEC) Tournament usually by a game.

"It comes down, even though you play 30 of them, it comes down to who plays best the most. And we haven't done that well enough, obviously."

The Rebels made a

change to its weekend rotation, bumping junior Xavier Rivas from his Sunday spot to Saturday and placing freshman J.T. Quinn into the final slot. Freshman Grayson Saunier had manned the second spot in the rotation previously but did not pitch over the weekend.

Quinn pitched a career-high five innings and gave up four earned

runs with a strikeout and a walk. The Rebels' relievers were solid for the most part over the weekend, giving up four earned runs in 9.1 innings of work over the three games.

"I think (Quinn) would admit it wasn't his best stuff (today), command was in and out. But he hung in there. He hung in there and gave us an

opportunity," Bianco said. "And, for a freshman, to get your first start in the SEC on the road, you have to be happy with that. But, like I said about a lot of the freshmen, there's a lot more in there that we need to get out."

Quotable

"I don't think you look, going into this game,

'Hey let's win this one so we're on some type of win streak.' I think we try to break it down a lot more than that. And, again, I think my disappointment is we didn't play better." — Mike Bianco, on whether he was disappointed in his team being unable to build off their Game 2 victory against Texas A&M.

Baseball

Continued from Page 1B

Lemonis said after yet another costly collapse this season. "We've got to throw the ball in the strike zone, especially when we get a big homer late in the game to take

the lead. We have to come out and be the aggressor, and then we have to get an out on bunt defense. Last three innings, two leadoff walks, one we have an error lead off the

inning, and then twice we don't make a play in bunt defense. Just not a great combination for success."

Lemonis' honest assessment showed signs of frustration from the

coach, who has taken the brunt of the blame for the team's struggles.

The Bulldogs have a midweek visit from Grambling State on Tuesday before going on the road to

Tuscaloosa, for an SEC series that feels increasingly like a must-win series.

The Crimson Tide (21-8, 3-6 SEC) are also in need of conference wins this weekend, in a

matchup that could be a good litmus test for both teams. Neither side has won an SEC series yet this season, but both have exclusively played highly ranked SEC teams.

Bulldogs

Continued from Page 1B

Josey Marron struggled from the jump in the circle and things continued to spiral.

However, Sunday was a much different story and one of the better all-around performances in conference play to date.

"It was good to see some fight," Mississippi State head coach Samantha Ricketts said Sunday. "To me, it shows that we still have some fight in us the rest of the year. That's kind of the message. We're not even halfway through the SEC right now. We have to continue to fight and show up for each other. ... We embrace the challenge and that's why everyone chose to be here."

The challenge on both

Friday and Sunday was clutch hitting, something that has evaded Mississippi State since last week's two-game sweep against a top-20 Georgia team.

After taking a 2-0 lead on Friday, the Bulldogs were shut out in the final six innings of play. Sunday saw it take until the fourth inning for either team to score, and they quietly went down in the seventh.

"I think we just need to trust each other on defense more and especially when we're in the box, knowing that we have the skills and any pitcher that's throwing against us, we're just as good or better than them," Faapito said.

Mississippi State put

together good at-bats against Arkansas, making hard contact. More often than not, those hard-hit balls went right to Razorback fielders.

All the Bulldogs can do is continue to look forward to next weekend, a three-game set with Texas A&M in College Station.

"There's never an off-weekend in this league," Ricketts said. "Everyone is good and that's what makes it tough and that's what makes it fun. We've embraced the challenge and that's why everyone chose to be here. We have to be ready to go next weekend."



Mississippi State pitcher/infielder Matalasi Faapito (34) rounds the bases after her go-ahead two-run homer in the sixth inning of Sunday's game against No. 10 Arkansas. The Bulldogs fell, 5-4, in the game, getting swept by the Razorbacks as their SEC losing streak was extended to five games.

Laura Parsley/Mississippi State athletics

CALENDAR

Today
COLLEGE BASEBALL
 2 p.m.: Northeast Mississippi Community College at East Mississippi Community College, doubleheader
 6 p.m.: Grambling at Mississippi State
 6 p.m.: Ole Miss at Memphis
COLLEGE SOFTBALL
 2 p.m.: Stillman College at The W, doubleheader
 2 p.m.: East Mississippi Community College at Northeast Mississippi Community College, doubleheader

6 p.m.: UT Martin at Ole Miss
COLLEGE TENNIS (WOMEN'S)
 1 p.m.: The W at Lane College
COLLEGE TENNIS (MEN'S)
 1 p.m.: The W at Lane College
PREP BASEBALL
 TBD: Hebron Christian at Delta Academy, doubleheader
 4 p.m.: Lee Academy at Oak Hill Academy, doubleheader
 4 p.m.: Starkville Home-school at Columbus Christian Academy
 5 p.m.: West Point at Colum-

bus, doubleheader
 6 p.m.: Washington School at Heritage Academy
 6 p.m.: Hamilton at West Lowndes
 6 p.m.: Shannon at Caledonia
 7 p.m.: Starkville at Grenada
 7 p.m.: New Hope at Saltillo
PREP SOFTBALL
 5 p.m.: West Point at Noxubee County, doubleheader
 6 p.m.: Caledonia at Itawamba Agricultural
 6:30 p.m.: Saltillo at Columbus
 6:30 p.m.: Oxford at

Starkville
PREP ARCHERY
 TBA: Starkville Academy at North Qualifying Match (Lafayette County Multipurpose Arena)
PREP TENNIS
 3 p.m.: Lee Academy at Oak Hill Academy
PREP TRACK AND FIELD
 TBA: MSMS, Columbus at Columbus Invitational (Tentative), Columbus
PREP GOLF
 TBD: Starkville at MSU Invitational, MSU Golf Course

MISSISSIPPI STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Freshman forward Kimani Hamilton enters transfer portal

BY COLIN DAMMS
 cdamms@dispatch.com

STARKVILLE — Freshman forward Kimani Hamilton entered the transfer portal on Monday, leaving the Mississippi State men's basketball team after just one year in maroon and white.

Hamilton, a product of Clinton High School, was a four-star recruit in the 2022 class and held several Division I offers, including offers from Alabama, Ole Miss, Georgia, TCU, Houston and Texas Tech, among others. Hamilton was the No. 1 ranked recruit in the

state of Mississippi and was a top 150 recruit nationally according to 247 Sports. He only saw limited action with the Bulldogs, appearing in 11 games off the bench, and appeared in just three games in Southeastern Conference play.

He averaged 2.6 points per game, and only featured for 10 or more minutes on four occasions.

With four seniors and three graduate players it seemed likely that Hamilton would be in contention for more playing time next season, but will now seek a bigger role elsewhere.

ON THE AIR

Today
COLLEGE BASEBALL
 4:30 p.m.: ESPNU — NC State at East Carolina
 7 p.m.: PAC-12N — Utah Tech at Utah
COLLEGE SOFTBALL
 5 p.m.: ACCN — Longwood at Virginia Tech
 7 p.m.: ACCN — Ball St. at Notre Dame
MLB
 3 p.m.: MLBN — Arizona at San Diego
 6 p.m.: TBS — Philadelphia

at NY Yankees
 9 p.m.: MLBN — Regional Coverage: Colorado at LA Dodgers OR Cleveland at Oakland (9:30 p.m.)
NBA
 7 p.m.: TNT — Boston at Philadelphia
NBA G-LEAGUE
 8 p.m.: ESPNU — NBA G-League Final: Rio Grande Valley at Delaware, Game 1
NHL
 7 p.m.: ESPN — Vegas at Nashville
 9:30 p.m.: ESPN — Edmon-

ton at Los Angeles
SOCCER (MEN'S)
 1:30 p.m.: ESPN2 — The German Cup: Sporting Club Freiburg at Bayern Munich, Quarterfinal
 1:45 p.m.: USA — Premier League: Nottingham Forest at Leeds United
 4:15 p.m.: FS2 — CONMEBOL U-17 Championship Group Stage: Venezuela vs. Bolivia, Group B, Guayaquil, Ecuador
 6:45 p.m.: FS2 — CONMEBOL U-17 Championship

Group Stage: Paraguay vs. Peru, Group B, Guayaquil, Ecuador
 7 p.m.: FS1 — CONCACAF Champions League: Atlas at Philadelphia Union, Quarterfinal, Leg 1
 9 p.m.: FS1 — CONCACAF Champions League: Violette at Club León, Quarterfinal, Leg 1
TENNIS
 10 a.m.: TENNIS — Charleston-WTA Early Rounds

Comics & Puzzles

ZITS



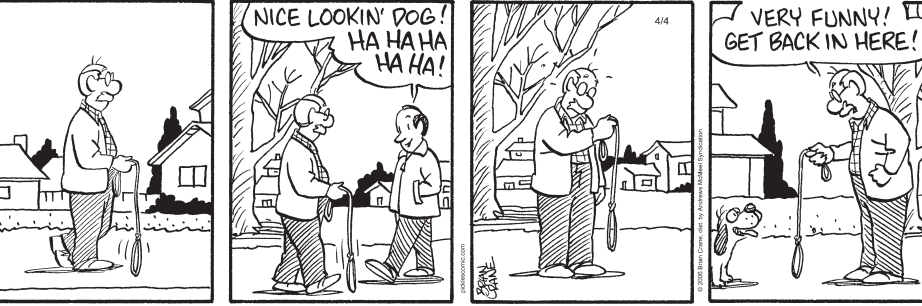
GARFIELD



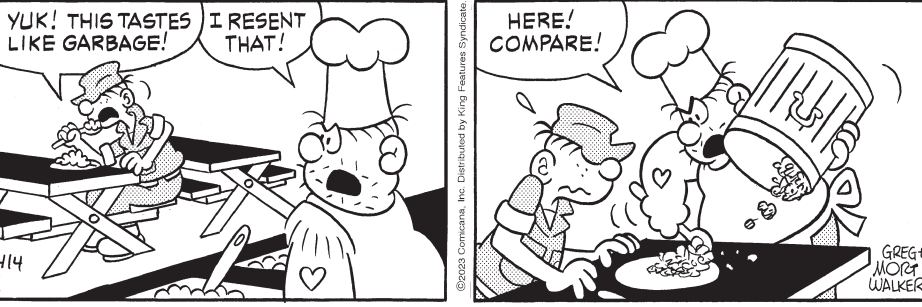
CANDORVILLE



PICKLES



BEEBLE BAILEY



MALLARD FILLMORE



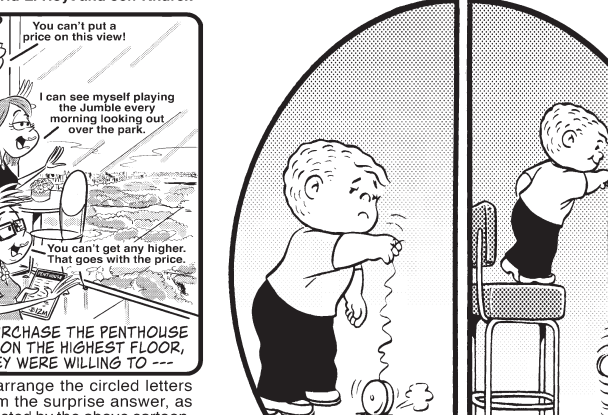
JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OHYAO
 LUTDA
 LIPRAL
 HATAYP

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FAMILY CIRCUS



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: About 20 years ago, my mother-in-law confided something shocking to me. Some background: My husband has two sisters. One is a year older and looks just like him. They both resemble their dad. The younger one looks nothing like the other two or their dad.

My MIL told me she and her husband stopped having sex after my husband was born. When I asked, "What about the younger sister?" she said she made a "mistake" with someone. We talked, and I suggested how important it was to tell the kids about this, but she never did. She always told people the younger one looked so different because she was so many years younger than the other two.

Both of my in-laws have passed away now. Why did she tell me this? She was too much of a coward to tell her kids. Did she think I'd tell them? Knowing this really bothers me, but I still can't bring myself to tell them. It would change their lives and crush them.



Dear Abby

Any advice would help so much. — WISH I DIDN'T KNOW
 DEAR WISH: Your sister-in-law deserves to know the truth. Tell her privately, in circumstances where you can talk this through. Explain that you have kept this secret because it was her mother's wish, and you don't want to share the information with anyone else.

She may have quietly wondered for years why she didn't resemble the rest of the family. She may or may not wish to tell her siblings, but she should be free to handle this any way she chooses. Because you are all mature adults, this information should not crush them.

DEAR ABBY: I am a senior woman who never married or had children. I met a senior man, "Warren," on an online dating site, and we have been dating for a year and a half. It's a platonic relationship; we go out twice a week. I have slept over but always in separate bedrooms. We are good friends.

My sister is selling her house. I have lived with her for 32 years and I pay rent. She wants me to move out in a year. I'm on Social Security and can't afford an apartment, and government aid is not promising. Warren asked me to move in with him to help each other out. He will rent me a bedroom. My sister and a friend of mine are against it. Their concern is he wants a live-in maid, and if it doesn't work out, where would I go?

Having no other choice, I'm seriously thinking of moving in with Warren. I really like him. He's a very nice companion and treats me well. Should I listen to my sister and friend and try harder to find a place to live? — IN LIMBO IN FLORIDA

DEAR IN LIMBO: Talk to Warren and find out what, if anything, he will need from you besides rent if you take him up on his offer. You might want to draw up an agreement with him in writing so there are no misunderstandings later.

You didn't mention if the rent you will be paying is as high as what you have been paying your sister. If it isn't, consider banking the difference so you will have a little more independence if things don't work out. From what you have told me, the arrangement you are considering could be rewarding for everyone involved.

Horoscopes

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 4), It's your year of endearment. The sweet actions of others warm your heart. Your way of being in the world has others pulling you in closer. Bonds become tighter and more reliable. You'll grow your skills on challenging work. More highlights: a fun makeover of an environment, a completely random stroke of financial luck and an age-old excellent decision finally paying off for you. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 33, 19 and 17.
ARIES (March 21-April 19), The past is done and the future will come. You're able to stay in the now for longer and longer — a discipline that enhances your experiences. You will be aware of the energy exchange of interactions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20), If you're not happy in your role, your work will suffer and so will you. What would it take to make yourself more comfortable? Getting to a better place is a matter of executing one small action at a time.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21), You'll deal with drama in a fair and impartial manner. You will respond based on what seems right. You're able to keep your personal preferences out of the equation. This is why people trust you and ask for your input.
CANCER (June 22-July 22), Today, you'll get moving and stay in motion. Don't worry about progress. Assume it's all progress. Every step is headed somewhere. The only difference between a step forward and a step back is the intended destination.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22), Growing up involves experimentation and mistakes — lots of mistakes. You expect this and you're not too hard on yourself when what you're trying falls flat. With patience, you'll figure out what works for you.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22), You're headed toward an impasse. Disagreement makes progress impossible. The deadlock has something to teach. It's an opportunity to decide what's worth fighting for. Eventually, you'll discover what's immobile — the obstacle in your path or your attitude.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23), Negativity is literally saying no. We feel moody and glum about the circumstances we reject. The way to resolve negative feelings is to say yes to them. Acceptance is the starting line to happiness.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21), You don't base your self-worth on the money you earn, but it still feels good to make a significant contribution to the things that matter to you. Tonight features comfortable conversation about nothing much; the noise is reassuring.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21), You'll absorb the day's lessons. And though you can learn through cautionary examples and aspirational models alike, the very best way, if you have time for it, will be learning from your own experience.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19), Most people are poor judges of what will make them happy, so the pursuit of happiness usually doesn't bring about the desired result. Go deeper into what interests you and you'll accidentally land in a joyful place.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18), What you want is important not only to you. Loved ones want to see you content, too, and they'll help you however they can if you ask. Tonight, you can avoid bad timing with good observing.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20), Optimism wanes. This dip in mood is a gift. It will lead you to learn where your energy is going. If someone or something is siphoning your vitality, you'll handle it, and then brightness returns.

Daily Bridge Club

Forty-day game
 By FRANK STEWART
 Tribune Content Agency

"Did Noah keep the bees in his Ark hives?" — graffiti
 When Noah wasn't sitting on the deck, they played bridge on the Ark. Noah declared today's four spades. He won the first club with dummy's ace and led a diamond to his king. Ham as West won and led a second club.
 Noah won and belatedly led the king of hearts, and Shem, East, took the ace and led his last diamond. Noah won and craftily led the jack of trumps, but East ducked. When Noah next ruffed a diamond with dummy's nine of trumps, Shem overruffed and returned a trump, and Noah had a diamond to lose.

Your partner bids one spade. What do you say?
ANSWER: You had a mandatory opening bid with three Quick Tricks. You also have a mandatory rebid since partner's response is unlimited and forcing. A rebid of two hearts would promise a longer suit. I would accept a bid of INT. I would reluctantly try a raise to two spades. If partner passes, the contract may be no worse than any other.
 South dealer
 E-W vulnerable

FORESIGHT

"I needed foresight to make it," Noah sighed.
 "If you had foresight," Ham said, "you'd swat those two mosquitoes we have on board."
 South does best to lead the king of hearts at Trick Two. He wins the club return, pitches a diamond on the queen of hearts and leads a diamond: deuce, king, ace. He can ruff the next club, cash the A-K of trumps, take his queen of diamonds and ruff a diamond with the nine of trumps to make his game.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ 9 4 3 ♥ K Q 8 6 4 ♦ 9 4 ♣ A K 3. You open one heart.

NORTH			
♠ 9 4 3	♥ Q 7 6 5	♦ A 10 7	♣ Q 8 6 2
♠ J 9 5 3	♥ A J 10 8 3	♦ 7 2	♣ Q 8 6 2
♠ J 10 9 5			
SOUTH			
♠ A K J 10 8 2	♥ 2	♦ K Q 6 5	♣ 7 4
♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ A K J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ A K J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ A K J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
South Pass	West Pass	North Pass	East Pass
1 ♠	2 ♠	4 ♠	All Pass

Opening lead — ♣ J

WORD WARP
 by Bill Biggar and Tom Gauer

4/4/23
 Find the word held in common by the three words in each puzzle. The three solution words will form a fourth puzzle. The numbers indicate each answer's length, and the + tells you its position.

Example: The solution to +FLOWER, WAILING+ and BERLIN+ is WALL.

+line	4	+
+cycle		
+savings		
+name	6	+
+size		
+shot		
+killer	4	+
+frame		
+out		

FINAL ANSWER 5

ANSWERS (TOP TO BOTTOM): LIFE, SCREEN, TIME, SAVER

WHAT'ZIT?
 Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

PROFIT PROFIT

Education

HA STAR STUDENT



Courtesy photo/Heritage Academy

Heritage Academy high school senior Andrew Salyer, left, was named the school's STAR Student for the 2022-2023 academic year, and Christy Shivers, right, is the school's STAR Teacher. Salyer was selected for this honor based on his ACT score and his high school academic performance. He is the son of retired Major John Robert Salyer and Christy Michelle Salyer. Each STAR student is asked to designate a STAR Teacher – the teacher who has made the greatest contribution to the student's academic achievement. Salyer chose his AP Calculus teacher, Shivers, as his STAR Teacher. They will be recognized at an education celebration on April 13 in Jackson.

Annunciation Catholic School third nine weeks honor roll, principal's list

2nd grade

Honor Roll:
Cali Bradley
Keelyn Clapper
Miller Graham
Mila Hardy
Aree Manu
Sophia Nguyen

Principal's List:

Amelia Alexander
Cambell Dimino
Olivia Dimino
Madison Dozier
Preston Hartley
Mitchell Lasseigne
Estes McGee
Galen McMillen
Mary Hayden Morgan
Collins Robertson
James Thomas

3rd grade

Honor Roll:
Massey Borden
Benjamin Butler
Aidan Hinton
Atticus Vernon

Principal's List:

Ames Borden
Meg Cancellare
Cameron Deng
Amelia Elliott
Lydia Frauentienst
Celia Freeman
Matthias Hanes
Joel Heard
Connor Jones
John William Milstead
Cole Monroe Conway
Miller Purtell
Samantha Toaboda
Genny Vidra
Whitney Waggoner
Alexa Welch
Mary Powell Westby

4th grade

Honor Roll:
Mark Alexander
James Baham
Arie Borden
Sawyer Callaway
Charlotte Chaltry
Keegan Collier
Kennedy Pyle
Nathaniel Rush
James Shepperd

Principal's List:

Henry Borer
Liza Clanton
Charlie Clemons
Bennett Collins
Kaylee Cotman
Madison Edwards
Coco Fenstermacher
Rogers Graham
Abigail Hall
Knox Hamilton
TJ Hince
Sophia Keith
Carlisle Langston
Carter Langston
Will Marrett
Abby Pigott
Bryan Sescu
Alex Sherertz

5th grade

Honor Roll:
Collins Davis
Julie Krieger
Nolan Langston
Ben Sherertz
Celine Vu
David Lenard
Owen Stovall

Principal's List:

Audrey Barranco
Lilly Baumann
Annabelle Brislin
Maggie Brown

Brynn Clapper
Jack Dimino
Preston Dimino
Genevieve Hanes
Wren Ivy
Henry Jones
Riley Lassenigne
Angelina Nguyen
Silas Zarandona

6th grade

Honor Roll:
Lola Cooper
Joselyn Lee
ARron Shepperd

Principal's List:

Owen Baucom
Will Borer
Amy Cancellare
Jack Clemons
Nicholas Corhorn
Liana Cotman

7th grade

Honor Roll:
Anthony Baumann
Amelia Jones
Wesley Shelton
Hayden Torres

Principal's List:

Emma Lopes
Isabella Nguyen
Isaac Zarandona

8th Grade

Honor Roll:
Hank Baucom
Sophia Heinkel
Jayden Lee

Principal's List:

James Cancellare
Hutch Clemons
Day Ivy
Angelina Tan

SOCSD INTERSESSION ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES



Courtesy photos/Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District
During their spring intersession, Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District students participated in various enrichment activities for learning opportunities outside of traditional classroom instruction. Students learned the basics of photography, how to make their own floral arrangements, how to create certain chemical reactions and more. Some participated in a NASA Astro Camp where they explored virtual reality, NASA technology, and engineering challenges through a series of hands-on activities.

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King Classic Sudoku

2				5				
	3	7	8			2		
9	8		2	4			3	
7	9	8		1	5			3
			6	2	9			
		2			8			5
	2	4			3			1
		5	7	2		3		8
		9	1	8	6	4		2

Difficulty: ★★ 4-4

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4-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

YDKL HAZ XRR PRWAGR HAZ, FH
WGMRTQ, MX LDR GRXZCL AW
K CMWRLMFR AW IDAIACKLR.
— BKLDKGMTR DRJPGZT

ACROSS

1 Drift onto the beach	30 Cease	14 Indian coin
7 Parting tool	31 Euro division	16 Magnet ends
11 Texas city	32 Fighting liberally	17 Cove
12 Lotion ingredient	34 Applied	19 Ambulance sound
13 Talked at length	40 Singly	20 Virtuous fellow
15 Twin of Romulus	41 "Raging Bull" star	21 Card spot
16 Docking spot	42 Fencing sword	22 Lawn starter
18 Go by	43 Put on, as a play	23 Place to park measure
21 Tadpole's home	DOWN	25 Ocean
22 Continuing story	1 Spider's home	28 Despise
24 Under the weather	2 Completely	29 Venus's sister
25 Buck's mate	3 Mud bath setting	31 Insertion sign
26 Carnival city	4 Enmity	33 Ties the knot
27 Prepared potatoes	5 Theater worker	34 Look upon
29 Dispatched	6 Ode or ballade	35 Pet perch
	7 Roman ruler	36 One in a hand
	8 Archaic	37 Really enjoy
	9 Cow call	38 Mine rock
	10 Writer Jonson	39 Silent assent

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
			15							
	16	17				18		19	20	
21					22					23
24				25				26		
27			28				29			
	30						31			
					32	33				
34	35	36						37	38	39
40							41			
42							43			

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